

REMARKS

The Examiner has required restriction of the claims of the present application between two groups as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-10 directed to methods for detecting enzyme activities; and

Group II: Claim 11 directed to a method for diagnosing cancer in a patient.

Applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-10, for prosecution in the present application. Claim 11 is canceled as directed to non-elected subject matter. This election is made without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claim 11 in an application pursuant to 35 USC § 120.

The Examiner has further required an election of species for initial examination. Applicants thus hereby elect the species of the non-spermine/spermidine N'-acetyltransferase for initial examination. This election is made with the understanding that, should this species be found allowable over the prior art, the Examiner will proceed to examine additional species with an eye to determining allowability of a generic claim.

Claims 1-9 read upon the elected species.

Application No.: 10/085,051

Claim 5 is amended to delete extraneous text from the claim and make a minor grammatical correction.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell (Reg. No. 36,623) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

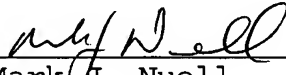
Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants hereby petition for an extension of one (1) month to July 7, 2003 in which to file a reply to the Office Action. The required fee of \$55.00 is enclosed herewith.

Application No.: 10/085,051

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 
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DRN/bsh

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 11 has been cancelled.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

Claim 5. (Amended) A method as in claim 3 wherein the SSAT substrate is incubated in a mammal and the sample is a blood or urine sample. [(Dr. Sitar pointed out the fact that acetylamantadine is also detectable in blood by same methods, should we specifically claim?)]
